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The Near Oriental Policies of
Emperor William II

**THE NEAR ORIENTAL POLICIES
OF EMPEROR WILLIAM II.**

BY

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THE NEAR ORIENTAL POLICIES OF EMPEROR WILLIAM II.

Chapter I.

INTRODUCTION.

There is an idea rather prevalent among us that Germany did not have any interest in the Near East until the accession of William II. in 1888. This notion is erroneous, because looking back historically we find that the Germans early manifested a desire to get down into the near East. As far back as the fourth century, the Germans pushed into the territory near Constantinople to seek the protection of the Empire from the invasion of the Huns. These German hordes soon fell out with the Emperor Valens and defeated him in the battle of Adrianople in 378. Some Germans, previous to the year 375 or the beginning of the Great Invasion, came down into the Empire impelled by their love of adventure, their hope of enjoying the advantages of civilized neighbors, or their desire to gain the rich land. The Goths, one of the German tribes, became dissatisfied and under their chief Alaric moved on and took Rome. Alaric died and the Visigoths finally settled in Gaul and Spain. These barbaric raids caused the Empire to crumble and produced a confusion of which nothing is very definitely known until we come to the time of Charlemagne, who was a German. He was mainly engaged in organizing and uniting certain countries including what is



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now France, the Netherlands, and western Germany into one kingdom. He succeeded in this plan and was crowned Emperor in the year 800. Within less than a hundred years after his death his empire broke up on account of the incompetence of the rulers, the invasions by the Scandinavians, and the growing power of some of the landed nobles. These nobles got control of large tracts of land which became known as Stem duchies. From then on until the sixteenth century, the Emperors were busy at subducing rebellious nobles, making expeditions into Italy, or quarrelling with medieval popes over such questions as which was to be regarded as supreme, the church or the State. The Emperors did not seem able to make a strong united country as the French kings did.

Within this interval occurred the crusades which was another manifestation of the interest of the Germans in the Near East. All of Western Europe was stirred up to recapture the sacred places of Palestine from the infidel Turk. These picturesque, romantic foreign enterprises lasted through the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Many Germans went on each of these expeditions, of whom the most prominent was Frederick Barbarossa, one of the chief leaders of the famous third crusade. During the first crusade the order of the Teutonic Knights was founded. Their greatest importance lies in their conquest, after the main movement of the crusades were over, of heathen Prussia and their converting of this state to Christianity.

Early in the fifteenth century the Emperor Sigismund sold the Electorate of Brandenburg to the inconspicuous house of Hohenzollern from which the present Emperor William II is descended.

It was the policy of each member to add some territory. In the year 1618 the old line of Dukes in East Prussia died out and the elector of Brandenburg, a kinsman, got this territory by a family agreement. The Great Elector (1640-1688) about to unite his scattered territories, organized the administration into an absolute monarchy on the model of Louis XIV, his contemporary. He began the military policy of his house by organizing an army out of all proportion to the size of his territories. His son, Frederick III (1688-1713) was able to secure the title "King in Prussia" a price he exacted from the Emperor for helping in the war of the Spanish succession. Frederick William II's (1713-1740) main interest was in drilling and collecting his famous army of tall men. He also ruled his family and his country with an iron hand, saying "Salvation belongs to the Lord, everything else is my business."¹

His son Frederick II came to the throne and ruled until 1786. He won for Prussia a place among the European nations, for which he obtained the title "The Great." He looked about for some territory to conquer and siezed Silesia from Austria, whose ruler was Maria Theresa. After considerable fighting Maria Theresa had to cede Silesia to him. He added West Prussia by the first partition of Poland thereby uniting Brandenburg, Pomerania, and East Prussia. His successor, Frederick William II (1786-1797), shared in the second partition of 1793 and the final partition in 1795 which

¹Robinson and Beard Development of Modern Europe Vol. I page 58.

added considerable territory.

After the partitions of Poland Prussia was drawn into the Napoleonic wars as were all the other German states. Napoleon rendered a great service to German unity because he dispossessed^s many knights and nobles of their lands and united these to the larger units. He elevated the duchies of Saxony, Wurtemberg, and Bavaria into kingdoms. In brief he reduced the states of Germany to forty. At the Congress of Vienna the dispossessed nobles and cities tried to get their land back but it was impossible to restore all, because some of the nobles had grown strong and would not give up any land. In 1806 Francis II, after he had been defeated by Napoleon, was forced to abdicate as Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, which made it possible for Prussia to assume the leadership later. At the congress of Vienna a German confederation with Austria as President^e was formed as a government for the German states.

Prussia now interests herself chiefly in internal strengthening^t. During Frederick William III's reign (1797-1840) or about 1828 the Zollverein or Customs Union was formed. The southern states were jealous of Prussia's growing power and would not join at first. By 1842 most of the central and southern states joined, except the Hanseatic towns Mecklenburg, Hanover, and Austria. During Frederick William IV's reign occurred the mid-century revolutions in which the people demanded many reforms and a constitution. At this time Bismarck came into politics as an opponent of revolution and he was a believer in the absolute power of Kings. William I came to the throne in 1861 and in 1862

appointed Bismarck president of the ministry. Together they reformed the army and carried on three wars, the Schleswig-Holstein war in 1863-1864, the war with Austria in 1866 in which Austria was forced to withdraw from the German Confederation, and the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, which established a united German Empire under the leadership of Prussia. There ensued a lull in warring in which Germany might have secured some colonial possessions, but Bismarck was not much in favor of colonies. He thought it much better to establish the new Empire on a solid basis. He did not want to offend other powers by entering on a path of colonial rivalry. Later, in 1884, his views changed and he saw it was desirable to gain new markets for the increasing products of Germany. William II took up this policy actively in what other countries have designated as Germany's mad and unwarrantable search for colonies. But from this very brief account of the history of the German people it can readily be seen that internal affairs did not permit them to undertake a colonial foreign policy until the time of William II.

Chapter II.

POLITICAL VIEWS OF THE KAISER.

William II was born in Berlin January 27, 1859. His father was Frederick III, a man noted for his mild and liberal views. His mother was Adelaide Victoria, eldest daughter of Queen Victoria of England. She was thoroughly English. William II did not seem to have any sympathy at all for the views of his father; from his mother he inherited his love of the sea and probably to some extent his capable efficient manner. William II came to the throne on June 15, 1888. Shortly after ascending the throne, he said "The ancestor for whom I have the most liking and who always shone before me as an example in my youth, was the Great Elector."² The Great Elector was the first Hohenzollern to organize the administration on an efficient basis. He started the military policy of the house; he saw the importance of promoting trade and industry; he wanted to acquire colonies as markets for increasing trade, and a navy to protect colonies.³ The Great Elector must have been lacking in this last respect because the German people did not demand colonies until after 1880, and as we saw in the preceding chapter, Bismarck then changed his policies and saw the advantages of colonies. William II took up a colonial policy rather actively.

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²Dickinson "The Kaiser" page 179.

³Dickinson "The Kaiser" page 179.

He looked around for some territory, but by this time most of the old world lands lying in the temperate zones had been taken up. England was not favorably disposed towards having Germany come into Africa and become a rival. It is said that Cecil Rhodes directed the Kaiser's attention to Asia Minor as a compensation for Africa.⁴

Germany has undertaken the policy of peaceful penetration in the Near East mostly under private commercial companies, probably because she did not want other countries to be alarmed at her activities. Just how far and how definite the political views of the Kaiser, as regards this region, are it would be hard to say but he evidently had some idea of political domination in mind. His speech at Wilhelmshaven to the naval recruits leaving for Kiaochow, indicates this: "Where the German eagle has fixed his claws that country is German and will remain German."⁵

One of the Kaiser's reasons for going into Turkey was his desire to check the growing power of Russia, which had interfered with the affairs of the Near East for a long time with an ultimate aim of gaining political dominance there. Russia had been especially aiming to get Constantinople, which would give her an outlet to the Mediterranean Sea. It was evident to Germany that it would be better not to have powerful Russia at Constantinople, which is a point of great strategic force. The Sultan of Turkey has long

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⁴Contemporary Review Vol. 107 page 488.

⁵Saunders "Builder and Blunderer" page 89.

been alluded to as the "Sick Man of Europe" and the further crumbling of his Empire has been expected as a matter of course. Germany sees that it is much preferable to have a weak neighbor here, one that would not be a serious menace to her, but a country that is yet strong enough to exist separately.. Realizing this, William II has become an ally of the Sultan who was very glad to have a friend. In the late Balkan struggles the European powers have been disposed to take sides against Turkey. When William II came in and offered to help the Sultan Abdul Hamid in carrying out reforms to strengthen his country, the Sultan was glad to accept this friendship. This is what one writer designates as keeping the Status quo in Turkey.⁶

In the same way it would help to check the growth of England but this danger did not seem as great as that of Russia. England has some control in Egypt, the Suez Canal, and at the mouth of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers on the Persian Gulf. If Germany extends her commercial and economic activities on into Persia, it would mean that England would lose some of her influence in the latter country. This expansion of Germany in the Near East has brought about an anti-German feeling on the part of the British.⁷ A spirit of opposition to them is fostered, so the English claim, by the German government and many of the intellectual leaders of Germany.⁸

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⁶Fortnightly review Vol. 98 page 471.

⁷Ibid review Vol. 79 page 469.

⁸Ibid review Vol. 79 page 469.

E. J. Dillon pointed out what an immense advantage Turkey could be to Germany in a military way.⁹ If England were to attack the Central Powers, that is Austria Hungary and Germany, Turkey could attack Egypt and cut off the British communication through the Suez Canal, the international character of which the Ottoman Empire does not recognize.. She could also deal a blow to Russia. The provinces of Transcaucasia and Caucasus have a good many Moslems in their population, who were supposed to be eager to join the Caliph. The present war, so far, has not proved that the Turks under the control of the Central Powers have been able to accomplish this. They did withstand a heavy attack upon the Dardanelles. The Turks have fought well and probably could do more if they were better trained.

William II wishes to be a factor in world politics and one of the best ways to achieve this is to have territory outside of the European Empire. The Near East has given Germany a footing in a center of world politics.¹⁰ For the last two decades the Near East has presented some very perplexing problems to the European diplomats, and all eyes more or less have been turned there to watch what will happen to the Ottoman power. The Germans have gained their influence with the Turks according to Prince Von Bulow, by diplomatic persuasion but never by force.¹¹ Turkey has =

⁹ Contemporary Review Vol. 106 page 714.

¹⁰ Saunders, Builder and Blunderer page 75.

¹¹ Perris, Germany and German Emperor page 409.

been an excellent place to start to achieve this idea of entering world politics. It has brought Germany into relations with Russia and England directly by becoming their rival in that region. It has also brought her into relationship with the Balkans and all countries interested in her welfare. William II with his ambitious aims looks higher than being only a factor. A German diplomat says of William II "His single aim is the elevation of Germany to the supreme political power of the world."¹² Not only William II wishes German supremacy, but also many others such as Professor Eisenhard of Munich.¹³ Many newspapers voice the same sentiment, of which the Koloniale Zeitschrift, Tuetonicus and Deutscher Wochenblatt are examples.¹³

The results of this policy have been stated as six:¹⁴ (1) Germany has lost her position as the leading power of Europe, and (2) Russia has taken this place in view of the affairs at the beginning of the war, and now, these views are hardly correct, ^{since} on account of the over throw of the Czar, Russia has had practically to withdraw from the war. Germany has shown wonderful endurance and she has demonstrated the benefits of an efficient Government. (3) Because of Germany's growing power, France has become an ally of Russia. It is very probable that France would have sought an ally anyway on account of the bitter humiliation of the Franco-Prussian War, and the hard condition^s imposed by Germany. Such a war as the France-Prussian usually leaves a spirit of hatred and

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¹²Outlook Vol. 81 page 1011.

¹³Fortnightly Review Vol. 79 page 481.

¹⁴Ibid Vol. 68 page 480.

revenge. (4) The Triple Alliance has ceased to exist. As far as Germany is concerned the Alliance holds. Austria-Hungary is her main Ally in this war. Italy is fighting against Austria, but not Germany. (5) England has been alienated. (6) Bond between Russia and Germany has been snapped. These last two hold good.

Chapter III.

Economic Views of the Kaiser in Respect to the Near East.

William II is very much interested in the Near Orient economically, which is the strongest reason why he and the German people began a policy of peaceful penetration in that region. First, he wishes a place for German colonization.¹⁵ The population is increasing and there is need of colonies, to which the surplus population might go. As it is now, people go to other lands; if they like it there, they make it their permanent home, and never go back to Germany. The immigrants in a few years become assimilated with the country to which they emigrate, and so are lost forever to the Empire.¹⁶ If they should go to German colonies, they would remain in the Empire and contribute to the greatness of their country. As yet neither Turkey nor any part of Asia Minor is a colony, but Germany has many privileges there, and also the Turkish capitulations have helped to keep the foreigners from being assimilated with the country. These capitulations, which were abrogated by the Turks in 1914, gave foreigners many privileges; they were not subject to the Turkish laws, but lived as if they were at home. Turkey really does not wish foreign people to come into citizenship, because she believes it would destroy the harmony of the

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¹⁵Saunders, "Builder and Blunderer" page 75.

¹⁶Dickinson, "The Kaiser" page 66.

country.. The Christians who are in the country were not permitted to serve in the army for the same reason. Although this law was modified slightly in the last few years, ultimately the Kaiser is thought to have expected to annex Turkey, when a suitable opportunity should present itself. There is a considerable German colony in Stambul, and he received a delegation from it while on his Palestine journey.¹⁷ There is also one at Haifa, which is a railroad town.¹⁸

A second economic reason for being interested in the Near East is that it affords a place for trade. Germany, as we have seen, developed late and so did not have many foreign markets. She has been looking around for markets, which has aroused other countries, especially England, and has made them feel bitter towards Germany. Turkey has not developed economically very far, and needs to buy many manufactured goods from abroad. Since Turkey is near to Germany, it is very easy to ship goods there. She exported goods worth in American money in 1899-1903, \$9,500,000; 1904-1908, \$17,500,000.¹⁹ In 1895 Germany had no trade with Persia, in 1909 her trade was \$200,000.²⁰ This trade brought Germany into rivalry with England, which England resented very much. Trade increases the prestige of a country, which prestige would allow Germany to get

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¹⁷Klausmann, "Kaiserreden" page 424.

¹⁸Fortnightly Review Vol. 70 page 548.

¹⁹Contemporary Review Vol. 98 page 398.

²⁰Angus Hamilton, Problems of Middle East, page 160.

increased concessions. It is also helpful to increase political influence.

The economic policy has been left for the most part in the hands of private agencies. William II, however, rendered a very important service, when on his Palestine journey, he visited the Sultan. During his stay he broached the subject of further railroad extension in an effort to see what the Sultan would think about it.²¹ The Sultan was on extremely good terms with the Emperor at that time and hinted that he would not be averse to the extension. This hint was carried out in the Concession of 1902, which provided for the extension of the Bagdad railway.

In order to insure protection to trade, the Kaiser has deemed it necessary to have a navy, which he has developed at the same time as the growth of his colonial ambitions. The navy is to be used to protect the oversea trade, to guard colonial coasts from hostile blockades, and to further the prestige of Germany. In order to get the money necessary for building ships, the Emperor has tried to create a favorable feeling. In the year 1897 the Kaiser began this process.²² "He has been busy with heart and hand, words and deeds, pen and crayon, for the building of the navy."²³ He has sent out advertisements: he has tried to get men interested in marine work: he has tried to get navy leagues organized, in order that they may prepare propaganda, which will arouse a popular

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²¹Contemporary Review Vol. 90, page 362.

²²Klausmann, "Kaiserreden" page 244.

²³Ibid page 232, Mit Herz und Hand, mit Wort und That, mit Feder und Zeichenstift, er ist tätig gewesen für die Flotte und ihren Ausbau.

demand. There is such a league in Königsberg in East Prussia, for example. In April of 1900 William II sent a flotilla of torpedo boats up the Rhine to arouse the people in favor of a navy. It was received well everywhere it went. As an illustration of the reception of the fleet, let us take the telegram of Duke Ernst Ludwig of Hesse to the Emperor: "I inform your Majesty that I have received your Majesty's Rhine torpedo boat expedition to-day in Bingen and have traveled with the same to Mainz. For the first time in contact with German war vessels in my land, it impressed me to announce to your Majesty what joy filled me and my land at the appearance of part of our defense, which has been got together for this purpose: to maintain the greatness of Germany."²⁴ The navy has increased a great deal during William II's reign. In 1888 it consisted of 27 iron-clad men-of-war and 23 privateers, both groups built in the old style. In 1902 it consisted of 35 iron-clad battle-ships and 39 privateers, both constructed in the new style.²⁵
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²⁴Klausmann, "Kaiserreden" page 251. "Eure Majestät melde Ich dass Ich heute Eurer Majestät Rhein-Torpedo-boats division an Meiner Landesgrenze in Bingen empfangen habe und mit dieselben nach Mainz gefahren bin. Zum ersten male vereint mit deutschen Kriegsschiffen in Meinem Lande, drängt es Mich, Eurer Majestät auszusprechen, welche Freude Mich und Mein Land erfüllt beim Anblick eines Teiles unserer Wehrkraft, der mit dazu berufen ist, Deutschlands grosse zu erhalten."

²⁵Klausmann, "Kaiserreden" page 231.

Barker shows the increase of the navy in the following way:²⁶

1888 189,136 tons, 782,470 horsepower 15,573 men,

1902 789,720 tons, 1,294,580 horsepower 60,804 men,

Increase: 600,584 tons, 1,112,110 horsepower 45,231 men.

The mistress of the seas has been much alarmed at this growth and has therefore increased her own expenditures, because she wants to have as many ships as any two other countries put together. The English felt that Germany was increasing her naval power at an unwarrantable rate of speed, which has served to increase the tension of ill feeling between Germany and England. Some of the Emperor's speeches have not been very reassuring from an English point of view, such as "Our future lies on the Water,"²⁷ "the Trident must be in our hand." "Nothing must happen over the water that I don't know about." He has given expression to these sentiments and others similar to them so many times, that we are led to believe that he would like to add this title "Mistress of the Seas" to his many ambitions for Germany.

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²⁶Barker, "Modern Germany," page 377.

²⁷Klausmann, "Kaiserreden" page 331.

Chapter IV.

Religious Views of the Kaiser in Respect to the Near East.

Another manifestation of the Kaiser's interest in the Near East has been along a religious line. The present Emperor is very versatile, and finds some time to devote to all his various interests. It may seem rather outside the question to begin this discussion with William II's relation to the Pope, but many of the Eastern Christians are Catholics, and the Pope is the Head of his Church the world over. While the Emperor is not a Roman Catholic, yet he has made several visits to the Pope. These visits have a certain political aspect, because there is a large party in the Imperial government called the Center, which is a Catholic party. The Center Party was organized about 1870 by the Catholics, who wanted to bring political pressure to bear on the Chancellor Bismarck to intervene in Italian Affairs on behalf of the Pope.²⁸ It was at this time that the Pope lost his temporal possessions, because Italy under the House of Savoy had defeated the Pope and finally achieved Italian unity. But Bismarck refused to help the Pope, and so a religious war or Kulturkampf ensued, which lasted for fifteen years. The only permanent result was to consolidate and strengthen the Center, which has been ever since then the

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²⁸Hazen, "Europe Since 1815," page 307

strongest party in this Protestant country.²⁹ The Emperor wrote to Cardinal Hohenhohe that he was glad when the Kulterkampf came to an end.³⁰ Since there is not a majority in any one party, two or more must combine together, and it is well to keep the parties conciliated. This is probably one of the determining motives for courting cordial relations with the Pope. In the first half of October, 1888, William II made his first visit to the Pope. If his purpose was to conciliate the Center, he failed very laregly, because the Kaiser in a toast in the Quirinal said that he had visited the King of Italy in his Capital. This was considered as a true sacrilege, that the German Kaiser should sanction the land-robbery, which the House of Savoy had committed against the Pope.³¹ It must be remembered that the Popes since 1870 have considered themselves prisoners of Italy and have never left the Vatican to go into the streets of Rome, as that would tacitly recognize the present government.³² The newly founded Italian government voted to pay 3,225,000 lire to the Pope annually as a compensation to him for his loss of revenue, but he has refused to accept it, although the Italian government has set it aside faithfully.³² In April of 1893 the

29. Hazen, "Europe Since 1815," page 309

30. Shaw, "William II of Germany," page 49

31. Klausmann, "Kaiserreden", page 64. Weil der kaiser unmittelbar nach dem Besuch im Vatikan beim dem Trinksfruch im Quirinal erklart hatte, dass er den König von Italien in "seiner Hauptstadt besucht habe. Man betrachtete es als wahres Sakrilegium, dass der Deutsche Kaiser den "Landerraub", der durch das, Haus Savonen am Papst begangen worden war in dieser Weise sanklionierte.

32. Hazen, "Europe Since 1815," page 379.

Kaiser made a second visit to the Vatican and presented the Pope with a picture of the royal family and assurances of his good will.

In 1903 he made another visit to Rome to give the Pope assurances of his friendship. William II was now aspiring to be the titular head or protector of the Catholic Church in the East.³³ It seems that the Christians are always in trouble there and need a strong protector. The Christian world was much averse to allow the places connected with the life of Christ to remain in the hands of the Moslems. This position of Protector had been held by France for some time. The year 1903 was a very opportune time for William II to satisfy this ambition, because France and the Papacy were in strained relations due to the religious disturbances in France. One of the problems confronting France was the rapid and enormous growth of monasteries. Waldeck-R^ussseau, prime minister, pointed out that the number of nuns had increased from 14,000 to 75,000 from 1877 to 1900; the monks numbered 190,000; and property held in mortu^mrain had increased from one-half a billion francs to more than one billion.³⁴ This wealth withdrawn from circulation was an economic danger^{and} Waldeck-R^ussseau believed that the education they gave was hostile to the Republic. So the Laws of Association were passed providing that no religious order could exist without definite authorization. In 1904 the monasteries were forbidden to teach after ten years. Thus unfriendly legislation was passed against the Church until 1907, when Church and State were definitely

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³³Nation Vol. 76, page 368.

³⁴Hazen, "Europe Since 1815," page 365.

separated. By 1913 the persecution was settling down into a definite policy, and it was very natural that the Pope should send word to France that he would appoint someone else to be Protector of the Eastern Christians, if she did not reform.³⁵ William II felt that it would heighten his prestige in a governmental and commercial way to be the Protector,³⁶ and would probably give him a firmer hold over the Center.³⁷ The boundless energy of the Kaiser would probably have made him a good ally for the Pope,³⁸ but the latter never made France resign.

The Kaiser in another connection expressed his good will towards the Pope. On the second of March 1900, when Pope Leo celebrated his ninetieth birthday, William II sent the following telegram: "I beg your Majesty to accept my warmest wishes for your ninetieth birthday. I wish for your happiness and your health, and God is willing that he should spread all his blessings over your Majesty."³⁹

In 1898 William II made a trip to Palestine by way of Constantinople, where he made a short visit to Sultan Abdul Hamid. There had been religious troubles here of late. The Christians of
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³⁵Nation, Vol. 76, page 368.

³⁶Ibid, Vol. 76, page 368.

³⁷Spectator, Vol. 94, page 739.

³⁸Nation, Vol. 76, page 368.

³⁹Klausmann, "Kaiserreden," page 76. Ich bitte Eure Heiligkeit, Meine Warmen Glück wunschen zum neunzigsten geburtstag entgegenzunehmen. Ich hebe die aufrichtigstereWunsche fur Ihr gluck und Ihre gesundheit, und bitte Gott dass er alle seine Segnungen uber Eure Heligkeit ausbreite.

Armenia and Crete had risen in revolt lately against the Turks, who had put down the uprising with great cruelty. Great Britain, France, and Russia had been disposed to interfere in behalf of the Armenians and Cretans, but Germany remained silent, which was understood as giving tacit moral support to the Sultan.⁴⁰ Great Britain, France, and Russia had begun humanitarian activities in behalf of their Mussulman subjects, which exasperated the Sultan, but did not go far enough to make the Sultan do their bidding.⁴¹ The Emperor cleverly hinted that he had given the Sultan great help,⁴² and so he was allowed to become virtually the Protector of all the Mohammedans of the world.⁴³ He expresses his friendship for the Sultan and his Mohammedan Subjects in rather extravagant language in Damascus at the tomb of the Sultan Saladin, he said: "Deeply moved by this imposing spectacle and likewise the consciousness of standing on the spot where held sway one of the most chivalrous rulers of all times, the great Sultan Saladin, a knight without an equal or reproach, who often taught his adversaries the right conception of knighthood. I seize with joy the opportunity to render thanks above all to the Sultan Abdul Hamid for his hospitality. May the Sultan rest assured and also his three hundred million Mohammedans scattered over the globe and revering him, their Caliph, that the

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⁴⁰Contemporary Review, Vol. 93, page 632.

⁴¹Contemporary Review, Vol. 93, page 632.

⁴²Fortnightly Review, Vol. 79, page 581.

⁴³Contemporary Review, Vol. 89, page 579.

German Empire will be, and remain at all times your friend.⁴⁴ Great Britain, France, and Russia were much alarmed at this move, because all of these countries have Moslem subjects, and they feared that Germany would stir up the Moslems to revolt. France in particular thought this, since the visit of the Emperor to Tangiers.⁴⁵ The Emperor was involved in the Moroccan question, which made France feel that he was trying to stir up the Arabs and the Berbers to revolt against France, which would open the way for German aggression. England was also somewhat anxious and disturbed over this Protectorate. She claimed that in 1910 the Germans stirred up an anti-English feeling on the part of the Moslems. A deputy in Constantinople made a speech unfavorable to England and the Speaker of the House listened with rapt attention.⁴⁶

The Emperor visited several places of interest. On the 30th of October he was in Bethlehem. He dined with the German Christians there, and expressed the hope that the Christian religion might spread there due to their example. He went to Jerusalem, and while there he visited the grave and the newly built church of the Redeemer. While at Jerusalem he was able to telegraph to the Pope on the 29th of October: "I am happy to be able to inform your Holiness that through the Sultan, who has been kind enough to give me this proof of personal friendship, I have been able to acquire at Jerusalem the ground called the Dormition of the Holy

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⁴⁴Dickinson, "The Kaiser," page 187.

⁴⁵Contemporary Review, Vol. 89, page 587.

⁴⁶Ibid, Vol. 98, page 724.

Virgin. I have decided to give this ground, sanctified by so many pious memories, to my Catholic Subjects.⁴⁷ I beg your Holiness to accept the assurance of my sincere affection."⁴⁸

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⁴⁷Perris, "Germany and the German Emperor," page 368.

⁴⁸Klausmann, "Kaiserreden," page 72. "Ich bitte Eure Heiligkeit dies~~e~~Versicherung Meiner aufrichtligen Zuneigung entgegenzunehmen."

Chapter V.

The Romantic Nature of the Kaiser.

William II has a strain of romantic medievalism in his nature, which romanticism can be satisfied in the Near East. Paul Liman said: "It was the distant wonder of the South and the strange magnificence of the Orient,"⁴⁹ which attracted him to a Palestinean journey. The Holy Land has a great meaning for Christians in a religious way, which is strong to attract many to seek out the very places where Christ lived. This place is historical as the scene of the Crusades. Many Crusaders started out as knight errants in search of adventure or perhaps to win honor and renown there. They were encouraged to go there by the Popes, who promised them remission for all their sins if they went to recapture the Holy Sepulchre from the Infidel Turk. As we read the romantic novels which deal with this period, as for example Sir Walter Scott's, the *Crusading Life* appeals to us, because only the bright side is shown. These knights in their coats of mail, with waving plumes in their helmets and riding on splendid horses, appeal to the Kaiser. He thinks of Richard II, Frederick Barbarossa, Philip Augustus, Count Raymond of Toulouse, Tancred, and Bohemond, who are types of the heroic romantic leaders of the Crusades. During his visit in Palestine, it is said that William II made an entry into

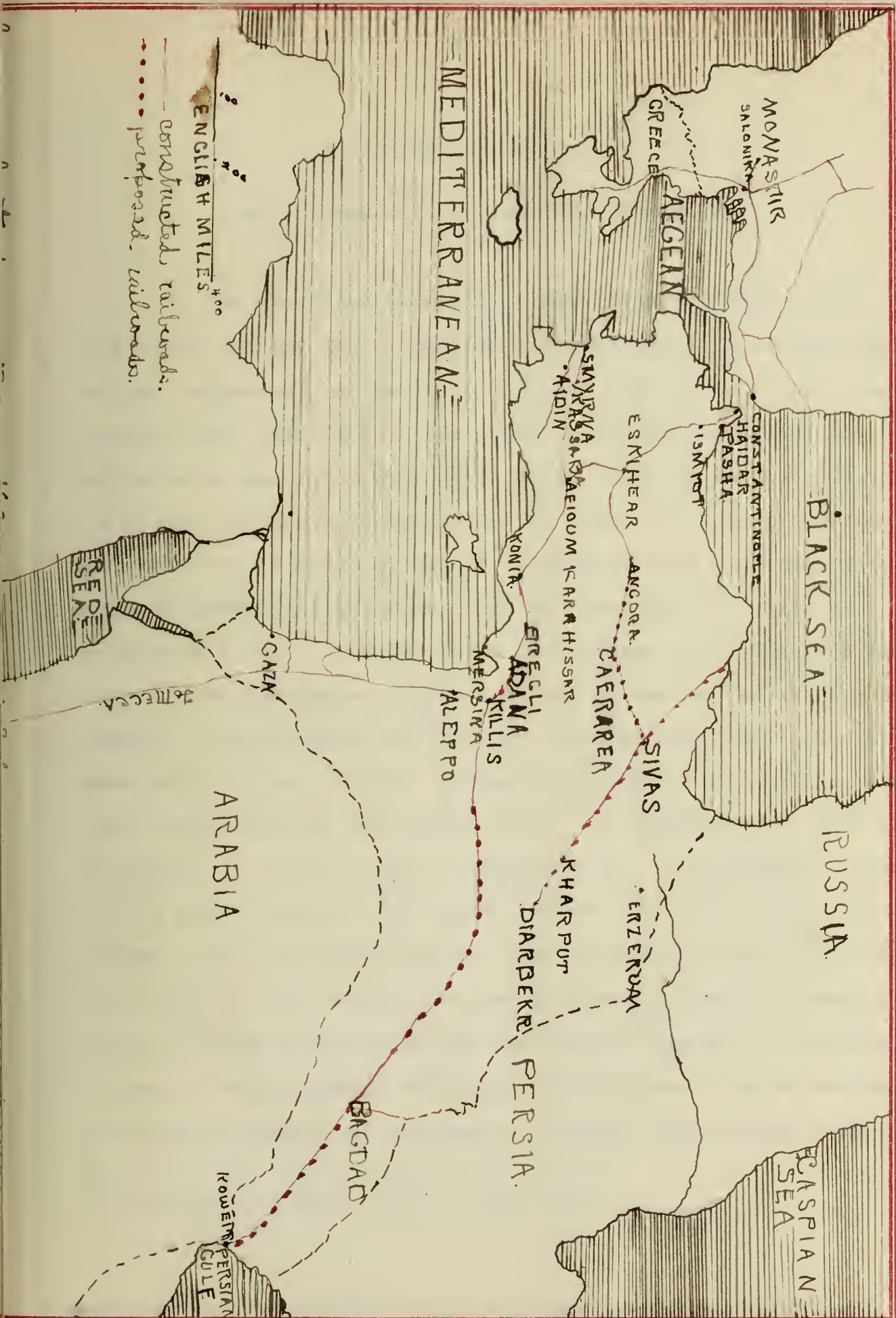
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⁴⁹Liman, "The Kaiser," page 70. "Es war die fernen Wunder des Südens, und die fremden Pracht des Orients."

Jerusalem as a Crusader.⁵⁰ Besides the Holy Land there is the ancient civilization of Persia that is very interesting for an archacologist. In Nicea the walls of the old church are still standing in which the First Council of Nicea met in the Fourth century. Besides the remnants of the old civilizations, there is much that is interesting in the present day Moslem World, enough to make it worth while for one to go merely as a traveler.

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⁵⁰Saunders, "Builder and Blunderer," page 72.



400
ENGLISH MILES
— constructed railroads.
- - - proposed railroads.

BLACK SEA

RUSSIA

CASPIAN SEA

MEDITERRANEAN

MONASTIR
SALONICA
GREECE
AEGEAN

CONSTANTINOPLE
HAIDAR
PASHA
ISMAILIYEH

ESKIHAR
ANGORA

SMYRNA
KONIA
KAYSERIA
KARAHISAR

CAERAREH
SIVAS

ERZURUM
KHARPUT

DIARBEKIR
PERSIA

KONIA
ERZURUM
KAYSERIA
KARAHISAR
ALEPPO

ARABIA

BAGDAD

IRAK
PERSIAN GULF

RED SEA

YEMEN

Chapter VI.

Activities of the Commercial Companies.

In the preceding chapters we have discussed the direct views of William II, now let us see how his policies were carried out by indirect agencies. As has been said, the details of economic aggression have been left in the hands of private companies and capitalists, and for a very good reason since it was not possible for William II alone to carry out his ideas. One activity that has been taken up is the building of railways as the most important means of communication, since they are necessary to unite the country as a unit, to allow goods to be cheaply, quickly, and easily carried from one region to another, and to assist the country to develop to its highest efficiency. When Germany went into Turkey, there were few rail roads. German capitalists have started several chief among which is the Bagdad line. The importance of this road to Germany is stated in the following words: "The Bagdad railway will do more than any other line that has ever been built since railways were first invented to change the face of the political world, and to help Germany to that influential position among the nations of the earth, which she has been so eagerly, so persistently, and so efficaciously striving for."⁵¹ Here is some testimony as to the importance of the road to Turkey: "The German-Turkish

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⁵¹Contemporary Review Vol. 93, page 734.

Bagdad railroad which will run from the Bosphorus through the whole of Asia Minor, Northern Syria, and Mesopotamia down to Bagdad is intended to knit closely to the Central government in Asia Minor and Constantinople those parts of the Turkish Empire which at present are more or less removed from its control!"⁵² The following words: "The Bagdad railway is the outstanding problem in the politics of the Middle East,"⁵⁵ illustrates its significance as a world problem. The Bagdad railroad is one of the three great routes of the Old World; one is the Trans-Siberian Road across Russia, the other is the projected road from the Cape to Alexandria, Egypt.⁵⁴

Even before the outbreak of the Crimean War the Turkish government conceived the idea of connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Persian Gulf, but all plans stopped during the war. After the treaty of Paris had been signed, the Ottoman government engaged an Austrian engineer, Von Pressel, to draw plans. An elaborate system was projected, which would connect all the important points of the Empire. The construction however, went slowly, since by 1888 the government had built only 59 miles from Haidar Pasha to Ismidt. It would have built more, but the funds set aside for this purpose became exhausted and so it was decided to sell the line from Haidar Pasha to Ismidt to the German Anatolian Company.⁵³

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⁵²Rohrback, "German World Policy," page 165.

⁵³Fortnightly Review, Vol. 70, page 548.

⁵⁴Contemporary Review, Vol. 83, page 734.

⁵⁵Angus Hamilton, "Problems of Near East," page 157.

A. G. Bell divides the German activities into three acts: Act I. Concessions up to 1898; Act II. Concessions from 1898 through 1902; Act III. Activities since 1902, which have been mainly concerned in financing the great roads.⁵⁶ In 1888 the Anatolian Company got a concession to extend the Haider Pasha line to Angora, about 310 miles distant, and five years later to construct a branch line from Eskisheher to Konia,⁵⁷ also a line from Salonika to Monastir. Each concession carries with it a kilometric guarantee, which has increased in value in proportion to the German influence. In 1906 it was £660.⁵⁸ In 1898 the Kaiser made a visit to the Sultan and hinted at further extensions, which the Sultan did not seem to oppose. In 1903 the famous concession was made which allowed the Germans to extend their lines to Bagdad. Thereupon a question of dispute arose between the Germans and the Sultan concerning the direction of the line; should the road run in a northerly direction according to the Sultan's wishes, whose object was a strategical one, or should it become an international road from Berlin to India? The Germans decided on the latter, then they set about to win the consent of the Sultan. They pointed out that the line would allow the Sultan to mobilize troops quickly at Constantinople, to distribute them quickly to strategical points, and to throw troops to Erzeroum, which is in the northeastern part of Asia minor.

⁵⁶Ibid, Vol. 90, page 359.

⁵⁷Ibid, Vol. 83, page 734.

⁵⁸Contemporary Review, Vol. 90, page 359.

so as to check Russia if she should advance against Turkey.⁵⁹ General Von der Goltz in March of 1903 delivered a lecture at Konigsberg, in which he stated that the Sultan had abandoned the scheme, because the Germans pointed out that the rails would be covered with snow the greater part of the Winter, if laid in the Armenian highlands, and because on account of the barrenness of the region through which the line would pass, it would not pay.⁶⁰

Since Germany has not been the only country to build railroads, there were three lines near the coast which threatened the Anatolian-Bagdad system; these were the Smyrna-Kassaba Extension, the Smyrna-Aidin Extension and the Mersina-Adana line.⁶¹ By an agreement with the Smyrna-Kassaba management the Anatolian Company acquired practical control over this line, which joins its own at Afium Karahissar; by an arrangement with the Turkish government the Smyrna-Aidin line has been blocked and rendered harmless; the Mersina-Adana line, a small one, will probably be bought when the Bagdad line reaches the Gulf of Alexandretta.⁶²

How was capital to be raised to finance the Bagdad line? The Deutsche bank is the financial agent of the Anatolian line. They found the capital in Berlin, Vienna, and Paris for the first section of the line by issuing Turkish 4 per cent bonds to the extent of £ 2,000,000 secured by the surplus on the kilometric

⁵⁹Ibid, Vol. 83, page 735.

⁶⁰Contemporary Review, Vol. 83, page 736.

⁶¹Ibid, Vol. 90, page 362.

⁶²Ibid, Vol. 90, page 362.

guarantee of the Ismidt-Angora line.⁶³ Then there are the annually increasing revenues of the roads already constructed. There are moreover the tithes in the regions where the railroads are, which have increased 48 per cent within the last ten years (1896-1906) and these tithes are hypothecated to the kilometric guarantee.⁶³ Finally, the Germans have a practical monopoly over the land, water power, minerals, and timber along the way. Perhaps the easiest way for money to be raised is to make the customs duties higher. But the European powers control the customs in return for loaning money to Turkey, and it is certain that England will not consent, because England sends the most goods there. If the duty on imports were raised, England would be the one to bear the most of the burden. Germany has asked for the co-operation of other countries, promising part control in the line. So far the outside countries have not helped. It is certain though, that the Germans can complete the line but it would be accomplished much sooner with outside help.

What is the attitude of the other Great Powers in regard to German activities in Asia Minor? When the Bagdad concession was granted, Russia became alarmed, since she thought this would affect her prestige and commercial interests there. Russia had for a long time considered the Turkish dominions as her own special province with an ultimate aim of annexation. The Germans have not built any roads in the northeastern part, possibly as a means of keeping

⁶³Contemporary Review, Vol. 90, page 365.

Russia conciliated. For this reason some Englishmen think that the Bagdad railroad is really a political marking off of two spheres of influence; the northern one would go to Russia and the southern to Germany, as soon as the Turkish Empire crumbles away.⁶⁴ Therefore the English should not invest money in an enterprise in which the benefits will go to Russia and Germany. There are others who think that the Bagdad line would get the contract to carry the Indian mail, since by this route the journey from Berlin to India can be made in eleven days, while by the Suez Canal it takes fourteen days. This would mean that the subsidy now given to a British Steam Navigation Company would be handed over to a German concern.⁶⁵ Sir Edwin Pears thinks that all opposition to England's co-operation in the Bagdad railroad arises from the hostile feeling that has grown up between the two countries within the last few years.⁶⁶ He believes that it is highly necessary that England and France should help in order that the international aspect of the road might be kept. England especially should control the last section, if she wants to keep her control of the Persian Gulf.⁶⁷ It is a work of civilization because it develops the region and for that reason should be built as soon as possible.

Perhaps it would be clearer, if I should give the results of German activities in building railroads before 1906 in a tabular

⁶⁴Contemporary Review, Vol. 83, page 742.

⁶⁵Contemporary Review, Vol. 83, page 742.

⁶⁶Ibid, Vol. 94, page 588.

⁶⁷Ibid, Vol. 94, page 585.

form:⁶⁸

In Europe:-

Wholly under German control (including Austria):

Salonika - Monastir - - - - - 136 miles.

Partly under German control:

Oriental Railways - - - - - 575 miles.

Wholly under French control:

Salonika - Constantinople - - - - - 316 miles.

In Asia:-

Wholly under German Control:

Anatolian Railways - - - - - 636 miles.

Bagdad Railway (first section) - - - - - 125 miles.

Partly under German control:

Smyrna - Aficum Karahissar - - - - - 320 miles.

Morsina - Adana - - - - - 40 miles.

Likely to pass under German control:

Smyrna - Dineir - - - - - 324 miles.

Under Turkish Administration:

Haifa - Damascus - - - - - 152 miles.

Hedjaz Railway - - - - - 500 miles.

Franco - Belgian Concession:

Beirut - - Damascus - Hamah - - - - - 268 miles.

Wholly under French control:

Jaffa - Jerusalem - - - - - 54 miles.

Total 3,446 miles.

⁶⁸ Contemporary Review, Vol. 90, page 364.

Thus out of a total of 3,446 miles, 897 miles were wholly German, 935 miles were partly under German control, and the single British line of 324 miles was dominated by German influence. As the purely Turkish lines had been chiefly engineered by Germans we could not place them on the other side of the account, on which, out of a total of 3,446 miles we could set only 638 miles independent of German influence. Of the unconstructed lines, German concessions accounted for 1,000 miles to the north of the projected Bagdad line, and for 1,000 unfinished miles of that concession between Eregli and the Persian Gulf. The Franco-Belgian concession had 180 miles to build to the north of Hamah, and 600 miles of the Turkish Hedjaz Railway were yet unbuilt.

Although railroad building has been the chief activity of the commercial companies, yet they have taken up other activities. Various agricultural schemes have been begun in the different countries of Asia Minor. In northwestern Mesopotamia and the neighboring regions in Syria, cotton is a specialty. Before the era of railroads the quantity of cotton produced was determined by local needs and local insecurity. No peasant wanted to invest money and labor in raising cotton only to have some Kurdish or Arabian brigand carry it off. But with the construction of the railroads it is hoped that order can be established, and that enormous quantities of cotton may be raised for export. The German capitalists will probably organize two or three land companies who will obtain from the Ottoman government vast tracts of land on long term leases.⁶⁹ The company will sublet this land to native

⁶⁹Contemporary Review, Vol. 83, page 739.

peasants or hire German laborers. If cotton grows there profitably Germany hopes to obtain her cotton supply there instead of from the United States. Long centuries ago the Tigris - Euphrates valley was a fertile and prosperous plain, which the Germans intend to restore to its ancient prosperity. There are two kinds of soil, one that requires only an ordinary amount of rainfall; the other needs artificial irrigation, such as in Babylonia for example. This region was in ancient days the granary of the world. By irrigation and the introduction of modern methods of agriculture it is thought that this region can become a formidable competitor of Russia. The Anatolian railroad company has opened up 260,000 acres of land in Konia.⁷⁰ In Anatolia the Turk has largely put down the sword and taken up the plow, due to German influence.⁷¹ This introduction of irrigation, farming methods, banks, roads, and schools has had a great civilizing influence in that province. If German civilization were introduced into Armenia it seems very probable that it would go a long way towards solving that perplexing problem. As it is now, the people who live in Lesser Armenia are brave, rough, half-civilized outlaws. They live in a mountainous country, and make their living by carrying on a guerilla warfare against Turkish caravans. They hate all authority of a central government and will not pay any taxes. But if Germany was able to bring order into Konia and Anatolia, there seems to be no serious obstacle in the way of her doing the same in Armenia. Another great attraction is

⁷⁰Angus Hamilton, "Problems of Near East", page 185.

⁷¹Contemporary Review, Vol. 105, page 212.

naphtha. It is found in the regions beginning with the Iranian mountains and extending southwestward over the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to the Arabian deserts. Pure dark naphtha is said to ooze up from the soil and despite the wasteful methods of gathering it is said to furnish all the inhabitants of Kerkuk, about 15,000, with petroleum.⁷² With scientific methods of gathering and refining this naphtha, it could become a commercial product of great value.

In the convention of 1911 of the Bagdad railway company, the following concessions were given for the exploitation of raw materials: "With the work of digging harbours and of providing them with all the installations and apparatus for the landing of ships and quays, and for the embarking, disembarking, and storage of goods ---- The Company is permitted to establish steamship services on the Rivers Tigris and Euphrates (nominally for the conveyance of workmen) The Company ---- shall further exploit the coal, copper, and such other mines as there may be within a radius of twenty kilometers from the railway line, and shall carry on as much timber cutting as it may deem advisable in the neighboring forests. Further, on the condition of turning over 25 per cent of its profits to the Turkish government, the company shall be allowed to establish and work on the territories conceded to it, railway stores and warehouses, which the public shall be allowed to use. The company shall further build electric powerhouses, and shall have the monopoly of all brick and tile works to be founded and operated
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⁷²Contemporary Review, Vol. 83, page 741.

in the territories conceded to it."⁷³ Thus we find the Germans entering upon almost every phase of economic activities. Since this development is only in its initial stages, we shall have to wait several years to see the results worked out by the commercial enterprises, provided conditions at the close of the present war permit these to continue.

⁷³Contemporary Review, Vol. 107, page 490.

Chapter VII.

Pan-Germanism.

Another factor contributing to the success of Germany is the idea of Pan-Germanism, which is a movement to gain a greater German Empire and to keep Germans the world over loyal to the home government. The Pan-German plan includes three big points: (1) the creation of Mitteleuropa, a great central European state as an economic and military unit; (2) a new Zollverein between the Hungarian frontier and the Persian Gulf; (3) the achievement of naval supremacy and world power.⁷⁴ The first point has been accomplished in the unification of Germany. The different countries that make up the empire are united in an economic unit, and the military unit is one of the most efficient of the modern world. The second plan has been carried out to a great degree as we have seen by the activities of the commercial companies in Asia Minor. A Zollverein means a customs union with trade privileges, which Germany has developed in Asia Minor. The factor of world domination and naval supremacy had not been accomplished as yet. Undoubtedly the Kaiser has worked towards these ends. He has been largely instrumental in increasing the navy with an ultimate hope of surpassing England. He has become a factor in world politics by acquiring land outside of Europe.

⁷⁴Contemporary Review, Vol. 105, page 212.

Furthermore, there is another phase in this movement, which is to keep all Germans over the world united in loyalty to the home government. The distribution of the German people is shown in the following table:⁷⁵

In Germany	- - - - -	66,000,000.
In Austria-Hungary	- - - - -	11,550,000.
In Switzerland	- - - - -	2,320,000.
In Russia	- - - - -	2,000,000.
		<hr/>
Total in Europe	-	83,000,000.
In the United States and Canada	- - - - -	11,500,000.
In Central and South America	- - - - -	600,000.
In Asia, Africa, and Australia	- - - - -	400,000.
		<hr/>
Grand Total	- - -	95,500,000.

Now these Germans who emigrate from the Empire rapidly become assimilated. For instance the Germans in Bohemia are rapidly becoming Czechs. In Austria the German language is the state language, which preserves it there. In the United States many Germans have become Americans, and even during the present war are loyal to the United States government. Some of these peoples have German schools of their own, but after a few years the instruction is not given wholly in German, nor do they teach so much German ideals as American. The leaders of the Pan-Germanists do not want to lose these people. There are some Germans who believe that the Germans have a mission in the world and that is to rule the whole world.

⁷⁵Barker, "Modern Germany," page 41.

It is expressed in the following words, "May our Fatherland be as powerful, as closely united, and as authoritative, as was the Roman Empire of old, in order that the old time 'Romanurs sum' may be replaced by 'I am a German citizen.'"⁷⁶

⁷⁶Barker, "Modern Germany," page 124.

Chapter VIII.

Conclusion.

How has the Great War affected the economic activities, which the Germans had begun in Asia Minor? Conditions have been so greatly disturbed that the Germans have not had time or money to further many of those activities. It is very hard to get much news from Turkey on account of the censorship of the press. Although I have not seen any direct statement, however, I feel that the Germans would make all possible use of the wheat lands of Konia, the copper mines along the Bagdad Railway, and of the further extension of this railway. Some progress has been made.

E. J. Dillon's views concerning the military advantage of Turkey to Germany was pointed out in Chapter II. Has any of these ideas been attempted? First, let us see how Turkey has attempted to attack England by the way of Egypt and the Suez Canal. A chronological method will be followed:

1914.

November 3rd, A British cruiser occupied the Turkish port of Akabah on the Red Sea east of Suez.

November 9th, A Turkish army was reported as marching toward Egypt.
December 17th, Egypt was made a British Protectorate. A new Sultan elected. Egypt had been administered by England since 1878 though nominally under control of Turkey.

December 23rd, A Turkish army advanced on the Suez Canal.

1915.

January 24th, British forces guarding the Suez Canal came into contact with Turks, who were driven back.

August 24th, 1916. A second attack by way of the Suez Canal was undertaken, but the Turks were decisively repulsed at Romani on August the 4th. ^{The} _^ Turks lost one-fourth of the army engaged.

Secondly, E. J. Dillon pointed out that Turkey could attack Russia by way of Transcaucasia and the Caucasus, but it seems now to be Russia that is on the offensive and Turkey on the defensive. When the Sultan and the Germans were discussing the route of the Bagdad railway, the latter pointed out that the southern route would allow the Sultan to throw troops up to Erzeroun to check a Russian advance, but the Russians have captured this town.

The Bagdad railroad has been built 90 miles north from Bagdad. To the west of Erzerum there is no railroad until Angora, and so there is no railroad very near.

1915.

January 1st, Turkish troops siezed Ardahan, a fortified Russian town in Trancaucasia.

January 3rd - 4th, Russians won two victories from ^{the} _^ Turks in Ardahan and Sari-Kamysh. 30,000 Turks were destroyed.

January 30th, ^{the} _^ Russians advanced down into Persia and took Tabirz.

March 26th, Russian troops in Persia severely defeat a force of Turks.

1916.

January 21st, Russia begins her advance to Erzeroum.

February 16th, Russia took Erzeroum.

May 20th, Russia and England both operate towards Bagdad, but their forces are widely separated.

July 25th, Russians took Erzingan from the Turks.

August 8th, The Turks forced Russia to withdraw from Bitlis and Mush in Armenia.

August 11th, The Russians were forced to withdraw from Hamadan, Persia.

August 24th, Russia recaptured Mush.

1917.

March 21st, Russia again came down by way of Persia and on April 5th was able to affect a juncture with the English north-east of Bagdad. Russia lost Mush again.

The English attacked Turkey by way of the Persian Gulf up to Bagdad. Sir Edwin Pears, as we have already noted, has always thought that England should control the last section of the Bagdad railway, in order that she might keep control of the Persian Gulf.

1915.

March 3rd, The Turks attacked the English at the head of ^{the} Persian Gulf but were defeated.

April 4th, British Indian troops took intrenched positions at Zobirs in Mesopotamia, near the Persian Gulf.

July 4th, The Turks and Arabs attacked Sahaj, Arabia and the British were forced to retreat.

November 19th, A British force in Mesopotamia arrived within 18 miles of Bagdad, but was repulsed by the Turks.

1916.

March 10th, A relief expedition to the British in Mesopotamia had to retire to the Tigris River.

April 28th, British and Indian troops of 9,000 surrendered to the Turks at Kut-el-Amara after a 5 months' siege.

1917.

February 11th, British forces on the Tigris took an important advance against the Turkish positions west of Kut-el-Amara.

February 17th, A further British success on the Tigris. 2,000 Turks were captured.

February 25th, British took Kut-el-Amara. The campaign since December the 13th, has been under the direction of General Maude.

March 8th, British forces pursuing Turks arrived within 6 miles of Bagdad, passing Ctesiphon where the first expedition was repulsed.

March 11th, Bagdad fell to the English troops after a pursuit of 110 miles in 10 days.

The other great campaign carried on in Turkey was the bombardment of the Dardanelles, in order to reach Constantinople. Russia had been promised this city, a place she has been wanting for many years. The campaign began in the last of February, 1915. Some of the guns were of long range, as for example those of the Queen Elizabeth of England, which fired on the Dardanelles across

the Gallipoli Peninsula at a range of $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Troops were brought up on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles, but these were repulsed by the Turks. On December 20th, of this same year, the Allied forces withdrew after a ten months' unsuccessful siege.

Another interesting fact, which was given out on March the 5th, 1917, is that the Turkish Finance Minister reported that German advances to Turkey have reached a total of \$625,000,000. In return for this Turkey expects to favor her Ally with trade after the war.

As to the disposition of German influence in Asia Minor and the rest of Western Asia, it will be necessary to^a wait the outcome of the Great War.

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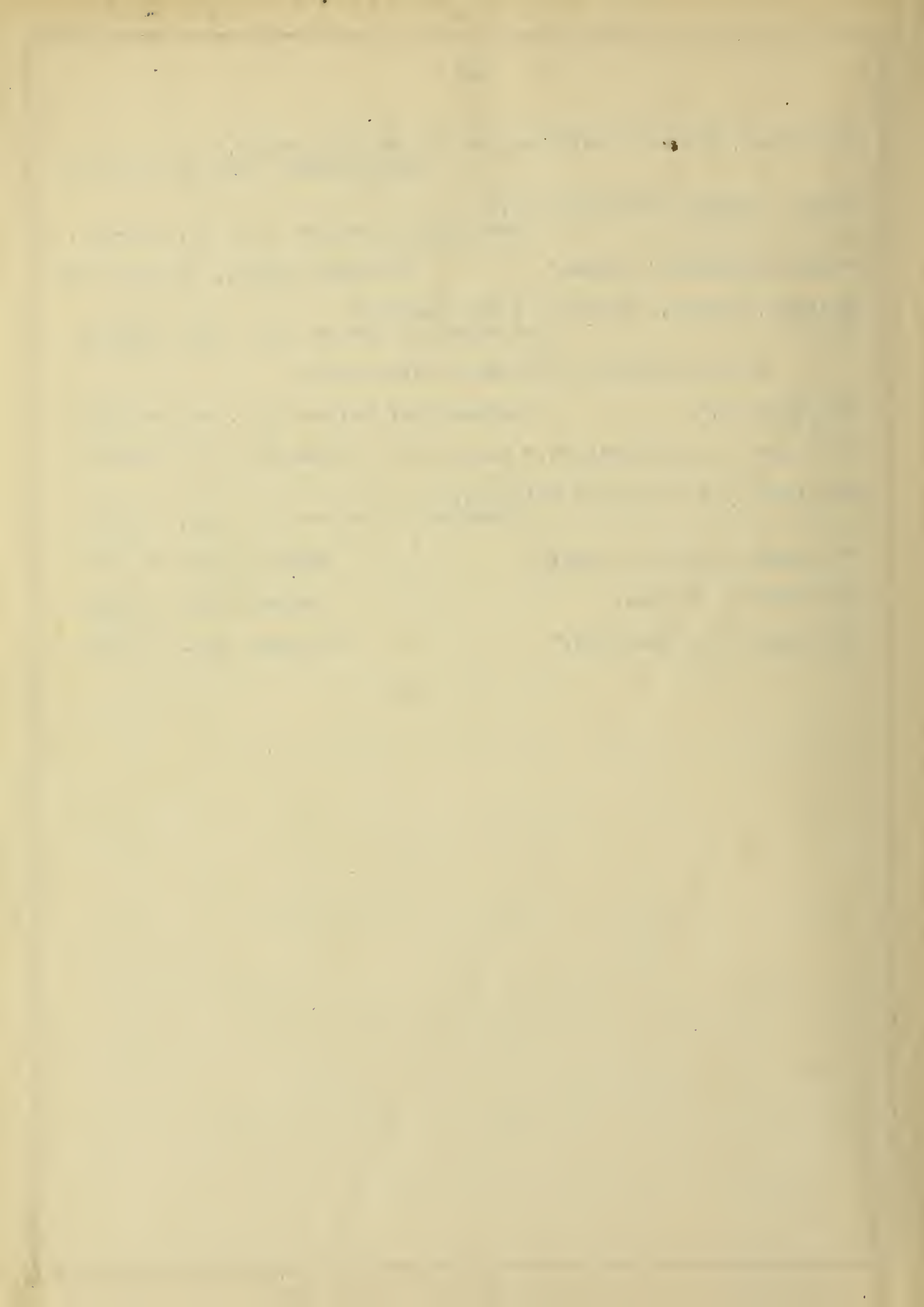
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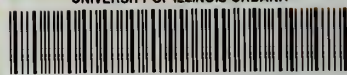
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